

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 262 without my signature.

This bill reduces the number of public meetings the California Coastal Commission (Commission) is required to have from once a month to ten times per year. In addition, in the event the Commission does cancel a meeting, this bill extends the timelines for action by the Commission pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the Permit Streamlining Act.

Given these difficult fiscal times, I appreciate the author's desire to allow the Commission to save money by potentially cancelling two meetings each year. But cancelling hearings that allow for public input into the Commission's actions is not in the best interests of Californians. The public hearing process was established to serve the citizens of our state and reducing the number of Commission meetings limits opportunities for public participation. I encourage the Commission to find other operational efficiencies within existing law.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger